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DIRECTOR 000745

1. IRAN: ATTACKS ON AFGHAN REFUGEES

IRANIANS IN THE TEHRAN AREA ATTACKED AFGHAN REFUGEES IN THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY THE IRANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, THE MINISTER BLAMED THE INCIDENTS ON AFGHAN AGENTS OF THE US AND THE USSR, WHOM HE SAID WANT TO FAN COMMUNAL TENSIONS IN IRAN AND DISCOURAGE IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR THE ISLAMIC AFGHAN RESISTANCE.

COMMENT: THESE INCIDENTS REFLECT THE FRUSTRATION OF MANY IRANIANS, ESPECIALLY THE POOR, WHO RESENT THE REGIME'S SUPPORT FOR

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release*

Approved for Release
12 JUN 1965

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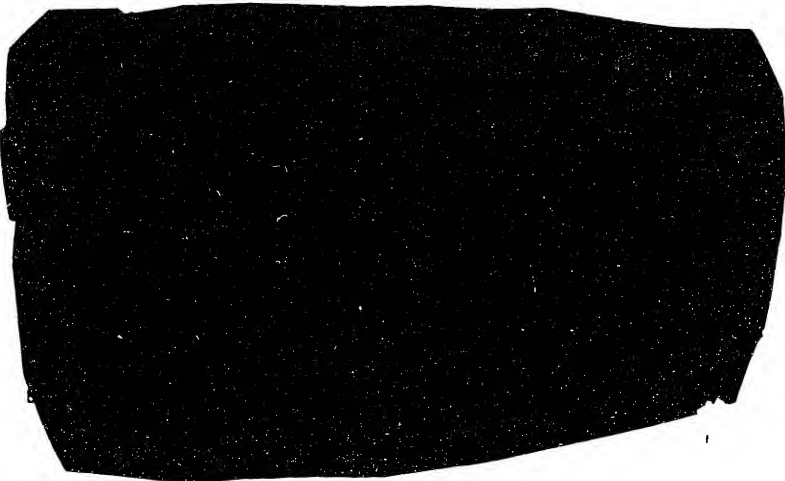
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THE 1.5 MILLION AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. REFUGEES FILL JOBS, OCCUPY HOUSING, AND RECEIVE WELFARE BENEFITS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE GO TO HARD-PRESSED IRANIANS, INCLUDING THE NEARLY 2 MILLION INTERNAL REFUGEES FROM THE WAR WITH IRAQ. FEW IRANIANS WILL BELIEVE THAT THE INCIDENTS WERE PROVOKED BY FOREIGN MEDDLING. ALTHOUGH MORE VIOLENCE IS LIKELY, TEHRAN ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE REFUGEES. (S)



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